Crime — 1911

CONDITIONS IN JEFFERSON.

Mont Adv 11-4-11

The report of the grand jury of Jefferson county, which The Birmingham News describes as "the most startling document of its kind formulated in all Alabama since the reconstruction days," and as "enough to amaze the entire State," is at least an advance towards civic betterment in that county, for the cover which had hidden the deplorable conditions, which have prevailed in Jefferson county for several years, was boldly lifted by the grand jury, and as revolting as was the exposure, the grand jury ruthlessly pictured the rottenness that was revealed.

Assuredly there is enough in the report to bring the blush of shame to cheeks of the honest citizens of Jefferson county, assuredly the report is a call to action and to service of those same citizens. It may be a Herculean task to cleanse the affairs of a county after years of festering and corruption, but the inspiration to such service is contained in a report which shows Jefferson county is worse than any county has been in the history of the State.

The rotten conditions, exposed by that report, are years old. They have been known privately to many citizens of Jefferson county. They have been whispered now and then and boldly talked of in the corridors of the Montgomery hotels now and then. In every office of the state capitol they have been decried for several years past by men who know, differ the good citizens of Jefferson county, and there are thousands of them, were not informed of what was being done at their doors, or they were inexcusably indifferent to a crying civic wrong.

Of this deplorable condition, years in the making, but now fully exposed, The News has this summing up:

This report reveals a veritable chaos of administrative inefficiency in many quarters, of systematic, widespread corruption, of absolute paralysis and defiance of law, such as has not been dreamed of as possible under intelligent white rule. It is a situation to stagger the strongest heart, and to make any one quail at the thought of how order is to be brought of such chaos.

As The News says the indictment of one or two prominent officials are but mere dots on the canvas, a mere subordinate matter. A system, a condition corrupt and revolting, has grown up in recent years along with Jefferson county's rapid growth and prosperity. The News is no doubt correct when it says that the failure of the law in Jefferson county to protect life, liberty and property is due to the iniquitous fee system with the corresponding ambition to get-rich-quick of venal and corrupt officials. For a half dozen years the corrupting fee system in Jefferson county has been under fire, but each time when the Legislature meets the politicians and office-holders who profit by it, have been able to prevent the passage of laws which would effect a wholesome reform. In Jefferson, it appears that the ruthless way in which the offices have been prostituted has resulted in a practical paralysis of the law.

The grand jury of Jefferson county appalled by the open and flagrant violation of the law, appalled by the lack of protection to life and property, had to resort to the humiliating recourse of an appeal to the Federal authorities to assist in stopping the abuses of the law by its justices of the peace, and grasping at any means to restore law and order, it was forced to appeal to the Governor of Alabama to end a reign of lawlessness and violence in community. There is in this a humiliating confession that popular government has failed in Jefferson County.

But the darkest hour is just before dawn. Jefferson county has its full share of strong men and honest men. A great task is before them, but in time the rest of the State can confidently expect a cleansing of the official circles of that county.

In passing, we may be permitted to allude to the highly moral lectures which have in recent years been levelled from Jefferson county at Montgomery and Mobile counties, because a majority of the people of those counties believed in regulating their own affairs on the question of prohibition. Jefferson, by implication and more than once directly, was held up as a model for the more wicked counties to the south of it to follow. With revelations which show a rottenness never approached in Mobile or Montgomery counties, we trust that better counties will be relieved of any further self-righteous lecturing from Jefferson. There never was a day in the past ten years but in which legal and moral conditions were better in Montgomery and Mobile counties than they were in the larger county of Jefferson.

But conditions are not hopeless in Jefferson. A call for an awakening has been made and we believe there will be an awakening.

LINE DRAWN ROUND "STILL" TO CROSS IT MEANS DEATH

Mont Adv 11-4-11

Six Whites, 11 Negroes Assassinated Near Birmingham Past 18 Months

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 3.—There was no new developments today at Lewisburg, four miles north of Birmingham, where six white men and eleven negroes have been assassinated within eighteen months, six of the negroes since last Saturday.

There is an uniform quiet at the sheriff's office tonight, which it is understood precedes a big raid to be made soon. It developed today that there is an illicit still in the community near Arcadia and that this has been one of the chief sources of trouble. It is said there is a standing challenge that no one shall cross a certain line in the vicinity of the still and that it was in defiance of this that seventeen men have met death in less than 18 months.

It also developed today that the United States marshal's office is working with the sheriff's forces and it is expected that when they unite forces and make their raid it will be a sensational affair.

The last two white men killed in this section were M. L. Broom and L. B. Heaps, about two months ago. Today is the first since last Friday on which there has not been a negro killed.

FIVE NEGROES KILLED

Mont Adv 11-2-11

Conditions In Part of Jefferson County Are Intolerable.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 1—Five negroes have been assassinated in the vicinity of Arcadie Mines, in the western part of the county since Saturday. The conditions have become intolerable, officers say, and while officers have the cases before them, the mysterious murders are shocking.

Two negroes were found in the woods Saturday, shot to death. Since then, three others have been put to death by unknown persons. Shep Chaney was killed Tuesday night by unknown persons.

CONVICT DENTIST TREATING TEETH

Mont Adv-6-11-6

A new official has been added to the State Convict Department, but the only pay he draws is credit for each day's work and his clothes and board. Dr. J. T. Pierce, of Anniston, sent up a few months since for life for a killing in which he took part in Anniston, is putting in much time doing the dental work of the convicts of the State.

President Oakely of the Convict Board, recognizing the need of such work among the penal element of the State, and seeing that Dr. Pierce was a capable dentist arranged the work for him. While Pierce is stationed at Speigner's, he is subject to calls to any convict camp or mine in the State. It is pointed out that the teeth of convicts suffer as if the men were free, and heretofore no attention has been given that part of convict's anatomy, although in other respects the State prisoners are well cared for. This dentist-convict is regarded as of particular benefit to those who must serve long sentences.

IMPORTANT WORK IS DONE AMONG NEGROES

Superintendent Tells of Alabama Reformatory for Young Lawbreakers

Mont Adv 12-19-11

BY A. SIMMS, SUPT.

By request of Hon. J. V. Smith and Major W. W. Screws, who visited and inspected the work being carried on at the Alabama Reform School for Juvenile Negro Law breakers at Mt. Meigs, Ala., I am hereby giving a brief sketch of the work and accomplishments during the present year 1911.

It was during the month of February last that I accepted the superintendentship of this reformatory, then known as the Negro Boys' Reformatory, controlled by the State Federation of Colored Womens' Clubs. Since the beginning of my administration we have been laboring under very adverse conditions in regard to the necessary equipment, but with the help of two assistants we have made special efforts in improving the material side of the school, as well as to bringing about an actual change in the boys' life, through moral, religious and industrial training. With such principles embodied in his character, we hope we will make his future life to be of the highest value in the city, town or community in which he lives.

Speaking of the industrial training, we wish to inform you that we do not carry as yet, only to a very limited extent, any of the useful trades, such as blacksmithing, shoemaking, carpentry, etc., but fair training is given in general house work, cooking and agriculture. Under the latter course the boy is given both in class room and at work a scientific and practical knowledge of general farming, truck gardening, swine and poultry raising, the care of live stock in general, care of fruit trees, flowers and canning of fruits.

Of the twenty acres of school property about twelve are under cultivation a greater portion of the year. Out of the twenty acres cultivated this year, eight acres being rented land, a greater yield of produce might have been expected, but when we consider the grade of land, which is light, sandy upland, no fertilizer being used, and worked principally by one mule and a hoe force, the yield may be considered fair.

There is no doubt in our mind about the institution becoming almost self-sustaining, or wholly so, provided we have access to the land, teams and tools with which to work to that end. With the force of boys we will have, great things can be accomplished along agricultural lines. Especially waste lands and swamp marshes can be converted into fields of glowing grains and other various farm crops and at the same time the boys will be acquiring knowledge of the various industries on a practical and scientific basis.

In giving a brief account of the work done outside of the institution for the year, I wish to say that in the meantime of earning the amount as stated below. Our boys' work has been of the highest satisfaction to the farmers for whom they have worked. The estimated earnings for the cotton chopping and picking seasons amount to $586.55. A portion of this of course was for exchange labor, seeds and tools. That is, teams we rented and seeds and tools were bought from the farmers of the neighborhood, and the cost of same was settled by allowing the boys to work for the parties at a specified amount per day. All earnings were d some way for the support of the institution.

Considering conditions the inmates work and deportment have been very satisfactory. We can note a decided change in their lives. During the year we have had only two escapes, both of whom have been captured.

The method of management is to use strict and rigid discipline, keeping them busy and under daily routine that provides an hour for every duty. Every thing is made as comfortable and convenient as possible. All indications possible of prison life are eradicated.

During the past summer under the direction of W. R. Carlton, farm manager at that time, a very serviceable roadway was installed, length of which is about 850 yards. Recently a very comfortable barn and a smaller structure for laundry and bath room purposes has been erected by the boys under the direction of the present farm manager, Dove Sprott.

There is also a ditch 4 x 6 feet about 400 yards long which is being dug. This it is hoped to complete before this winter season, which will add greatly to the productiveness of the land.

The school at present is run on the half day system, that is the number of boys is divided, half in school in the fore noon, and the remaining half in the afternoon, giving or allowing half of the force at work the day round.

The common public school course is given. The grades run from first through the fifth. Forty-four boys are enrolled at present, the following named towns being represented: Birmingham, Montgomery, Mobile, Selma, Opelika, Pine Hill, Wetumpka, Marion and one from Mt. Meigs.

The band of fourteen pieces has its place in school and is highly appreciated by all. The boys have been instructed in music about eight months.

The greatest need is the proper equipment with which to carry on the work. The agricultural department, which is the strongest, has to its credit one mule, three head of cattle (calf, milch cow and heifer), twenty-one head of hogs including pigs, and about twenty-three head of fowls.

With the proper means with which to carry on the work, it is fully believed that the numerous crowds of the loafing and useless clas of young negro boys, can be converted into an honest, industrious and lawabiding factor or element that will add greatly to the material as well as the moral upbuilding of our towns and cities.

MANY CONVICTS OUGHT TO BE FREE

Have Worked Out Sentence at 75 Cents a Day.

40 CENTS ILLEGAL RATE

Court of Appeals In Extra Session Hands Down Opinions In Two Cases.

Mar 4 adv.

HABEAS CORPUS INVOLVED

3-10-11

Sherry McWilliams, Convicted of Misdemeanor and Sentenced to Hard Labor For Ten Days as a Punishment and Sixty Days For Costs, Gets His Liberty Sustained.

Many convicts in Alabama have probably been held beyond their legal sentence in Alabama. It is impossible to compute the number, but there are now about 1,500 convicts in the State.

Since the legal day wage rate for county convicts sentenced to hard labor for the costs of the suit, the length of such convict's term is determinable by merely ascertaining the costs and dividing the amount by seventy-five cents.

The result is the number of days the prisoner must serve.

It is plain that so much of a sentence as extends beyond the number of days thus determined is in excess of authority conferred by law upon courts.

So ruled the Alabama Court of Appeals in two cases.

Ex parte L. J. Haley, Jr., for the benefit of Sherry McWilliams, an appeal from the order of the City Court of Birmingham discharging the convict Sherry McWilliams on a writ of habeas corpus. This case was affirmed by the court, and,

Ex parte L. M. Smith, for the benefit of George Lee, an appeal from an order of the Birmingham City Court remanding the convict George Lee to the custody of the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company. This case was also affirmed.

Court in Extra Session.

The Court of Appeals was called in extraordinary session following its decision that an act of the legislature of 1907 making forty cents a day the wage scale for county convicts is null and void. It was then contended that a previous act of the legislature making seventy-five cents the legal rate was the law. Following is the opinion of the court:

BY WALKER, P. J.—

"Sherry Mc Williams was convicted of a misdemeanor, and sentenced to hard labor for the county for ten days as a punishment for the offense and for a term of sixty days(not to exceed ten months at the rate of 40 cents per day) to satisfy the costs of this prosecution, amounting to $23.75, and said hard labor to commence on the 8th day of May, 1911, and terminate on the 20th day of July, 1911.'

Habeas Corpus Sued Out.

"The petition for the writ of habeas corpus in behalf of the convict was sued out on the 12th day of July, 1911, before the date named in the judgment for the expiration of the sentence to hard labor for the costs. On the hearing of the applications no question was raised as to the validity of that part of the judgment of conviction constituting the punishment for the offense charged.

"The bill of exceptions recites: 'It was agreed upon the part of the petitioner and on the part of the State that if allowed for and estimated at the rate of 75 cents per day, the costs in the case wherein the said Sherry McWilliams was sentenced had, before the presentation of the petition, been fully paid and satisfied by his hiring, if such hiring be estimated and allowed for at the rate of 75 cents per day; but that such costs had not been paid if such hiring be estimated at the rate of 40 cents per day.'

Fact is Plain.

"It is plain that the attack on the judgment of conviction under which the convict was detained was directed against the part of it imposing hard labor for the payment of the court costs, the judgment on its face disclosing that the court, as to that feature of its sentence, followed the provision of an act of the Legislature, approved November 30, 1907, undertaking to prescribe a rate of 40 cents per day to be allowed convicts in working out the costs, which act was subsequently, in the case of Dowling vs City of Troy, M. S., decided to be unconstitutional, when it should have followed, as to this feature of its judgment, the provision of section 7635 of the Code prescribing a rate of 75 cents per day.

Had Jurisdiction.

It appearing that the court rendering the judgment of conviction had jurisdiction of the person and of the offense, and that a separable part of its judgment—the part imposing punishment for the offense charged—was authorized by law, it seems plain that the defendant in the judgment was not entitled to be discharged on habeas corpus under the rule, recognized by a line of authorities in this State, that such is the result when the judgment as an entirety under which the defendant is detained is a nullity. Ex parte McKivett, 35 Ala., 236; Ex parte State, in re Long, 87 Ala., 48; Ex parte Pearce, 111 Ala., 99; Ex parte Mayor and City Council of Anniston in re Ballew, 84 Ala., 21; Ex parte City Council of Montgomery, 97 Ala., 275; Ex parte Brown, 102 Ala., 179. In the opinion rendered in the case of Ex parte State, in re Long, supra, it was recognized that the rule applied in that case would not have been applicable if a separable part of the judgment had been such as was authorized by law, the court stating that "had the justice sentenced the petitioner to ten days hard labor for the fine, and sixty days for the costs, we should have regarded the latter part of the sentence only as void, and the petitioner would have been required to work out the ten days before entitled to a discharge."

Other Cases Cited.

In another series of cases in this State it is recognized that a petitioner in habeas corpus is not entitled to treat his detention as unauthorized from the beginning, so as to entitle him to a discharge, when he is held under a judgment which is not void throughout, but is, merely infected by errors or irregularities for the correction of which a remedy is afforded by appeal fom the judgment.—Ex parte Simmons, 62 Ala., 416; Ex parte Hardy, 68 Ala., 315; Herrington v. The State, 87 Ala., 8; Ex parte Bizzell, 112 Ala., 210; Ex parte Roberson, 123 Ala. 103.

"So far as we have been able to discover there has not heretofore been occasion in this State to pass upon the question of the right of a petitioner in habeas corpus to be discharged when it is made to appear that at the time his application was made he had already served the separable part of his sentence which was authorized by law, his complaint being based, not on the untenable ground that the judgment of conviction, considered as a whole, was void and not merely erroneous, but that he was being detained beyond the period of sentence which the court was authorized by law to impose.

Judgment Not Void.

"Under the rulings last above cited such a judgment as that under consideration, when regarded as an entirety, cannot be said to be void; but those rulings do not establish the proposition that a separable part of such a judgment, under which the petitioner is being detained at the time his application is made, may not be treated as a nullity, as being, to that extent, in excess of the power and jurisdiction of the court. The expression above quoted from the opinion in the case of Ex parte State, in re Long, supra, at least indicates that if a separable part of the petitioner's sentence had been within the jurisdiction of the court, and another part of it in excess of such jurisdiction, the petitioner would not have been discharged if it had not been made to appear that he was, at the time of his application, being detained under the invalid portion of the sentence.

"The question just suggested has received abundant consideration in other jurisdictions. It is believed that the following statement, deduced from the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States on this subject, correctly summerizes the rules sustained by the great weight of authority: "Where a court has jurisdiction of the person and of the offense, the imposition of a judgment or sentence in excess of what the law permits is an irregularity merely, and does not render the legal or authorized portion of the judgment or sentence void, but leaves that portion only which is excessive open to question and attack on habeas corpus, after the prisoner has fulfilled the authorized portion thereof.

Prisoner Not Discharged.

"The prisoner will not be discharged on habeas corpus until he has performed or offered to perform so much of the order as is within the power of the court to impose, when the excessive portion of such judgment or sentence is separable and may be relieved against without disturbing the valid portion. The excessive portion of a judgment or sentence is separable when it exceeds in its extent the duration of time prescribed by law. Where the excessive and the authorized portions of the judgment or sentence are incapable of being separated so that the latter may be performed despite a discharge from the former, the whole must be treated as a nullity subject to be released from on habeas corpus."—6 Encyclopedia of U. S. Sup. Ct. Reports, 651, 652; In re Swan, 150 U. S. 637; United States Vs. Pridgeon, 153 U. S. 48; In re Bonner, 151 U. S. 242; Ex parte Lange, 18 Wal. 163; Harris Vs. Lang, 7 Am. and Eng. An. Cases, 141, 144, and authorities cited in note; In re Taylor, 7 So. Dak. 382; United States vs. Peake, 12 L. R An. 314; Ex parte Taylor, 45 L. R. An. 136; In re Tani; 13 L. R. An. (N. S.), 518; 12 Cyc. 782; Church on Habeas Corpus (2nd Ed.), sec. 373.

Not Restate Reasons.

"In view of the elaborate consideration of the subject in some of the authorities above referred to, it is not believed that any useful purpose would be served by an attempt to restate the reasons which have led to the conclusions above summarized. It is enough to say that an examination of the authorities and of the reasoning upon which they are based has led the court to the conclusion that when it is made to appear in habeas corpus proceedings that the petitioner, at the time his application was made, was being detained under a separable part of the judgment and sentence against him which is void as being in excess of the power of the court to impose, he is entitled to his discharge, though the judgment under which his detention commenced was, as an entirety, not void, but merely irregular and erroneous.

75 Cents Legal Rate.

"In the present case, as the length of time to which the deefndant was legally subject to sentence to hard labor for the costs of the suit was determinable by merely ascertaining how long it would require the defendant to pay the ascertained amount of costs by his service at the rate of 75 cents a day, it is plain that so much of the sentence as extends beyond the period as ascertained was in excess of the authority conferred on the court by the law. It having been made to appear that the defendant had served at hard labor for the period of time to which he was sentenced as a punishment for the offense and also for the period for which he could have been legally sentenced for the costs, the order for his discharge was proper."

Affirmed.

PER CURIAM.—

No question is made as to the power of the court to impose that part of the sentence which was by way of punishment for the offense of which the defendant was convicted. As to the part of the sentence which imposed hard labor for the costs of the suit, it appears that at the time the petition for the writ of habeas corpus was sued out and heard the convict had not served for the period required to pay the court costs at the rate of 75 cents per day. This being true, under the ruling made in the case of ex parte L. J. Haley, Jr., for the benefit of Sherry McWilliams, MS. he was not entitled to be discharged.

Affirmed.

MASONS DENOUNCE CRIME.

Grand Master Morgan of Mississippi Says Negroes Do Not Condone Lawlessness.

12-22-11

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

Holly Springs, Miss., Dec. 17.—At the recent session of the Grand Lodge of Masons, held in this city, Grand Master W. A. Morgan, severely denounced crime, and declared that the majority of Negroes did not condone lawlessness.

Speaking on the subject, Grand Master Morgan said:

"I am glad to say to the world that we have a set of men here who stand for law and order," continued the grand master, "and the 1,500 Negro Masons in Holly Springs to-day will take up arms any time for the protection of life, and to defend a worthy woman. I am delighted to see so many of you able men and Masons here to-day, ready to do your duty. May God bless you. Let us now turn attention for the opening ceremonies."

Bishop L. Cornell, D. D., of the C. M. E. Church, who is in charge of a number of churches of his church, delivered a special address, in which he said some plain things to the Negro. Many of the Negroes present have never been to Mississippi before, but were brought here by the Masons to attend an invitation for the Masons to visit his school.

Fred Moore, editor of The New York Age, delivered an address. He said that he was glad to be in Mississippi and note the progress made by his people. He declared that he was born in the South and migrated to New York. This was not his first visit to Mississippi and it would not be his last. He said that he would be the guest of W. E. Mollison, in Vicksburg, and would visit the homes of many of the Negroes throughout the state.

Crime—1911

GOVERNOR INVESTIGATES NEW LEASING OF CONVICTS

Four Hundred Men Will Be Removed From the Pratt to the Banner Mines

Nov. 28, 2-24-1

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 28.—Governor Emmet O'Neal is in the Birmingham district investigating the recent contract made by the State with the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company whereby four hundred convicts are to be removed from the Pratt Mines No. 12 to Banner mines. There is some discussion as to whether the State will profit by the contract made, which is to the effect that the company will pay 65 cents per ton for coal aboard flat cars at mines. The State will be in charge of the convicts' feeding, clothing and guarding them.

The Pratt Consolidated Company will take eighteen hundred tons of coal daily. Complaint is made by some of the coal operators that the State should enter into the contract and Governor O'Neal is making an investigation. A committee composed of Chief State Mine Inspector Nesbitt, Mr. Given and a third one made a full inquiry into the contract and have reported to Governor O'Neal.

John H. Bankhead, General Counsel for the Pratt Consolidated Company, and W. Asa Gibson are watching the interests of the Pratt Company and apprehend no change of plans in the removal of the convicts Sunday from Pratt Mines to Banner.

Letters to The Editor

OUR CONVICT SYSTEM.

Editor Advertiser:

The suggestions contained in this article in regard to our convict system are not made in any sympathy with the attacks which have recently been made upon it in the public press of the State.

No one will claim for it that it is ideal in any respect or that it is in accord with the principles of modern penology, but it has some excellent features and is a decided improvement over any previous methods used in this State.

My opportunity of forming an opinion in regard to it is limited, in a large measure, to the prisons operated in the mines of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, in the County of Jefferson. With the conditions of the convicts in these mines I have been conversant for more than ten years. It affords me pleasure to state that at no previous time within my knowledge has the convict been so well fed and cared for physically as under the management of the present Board of Inspectors. Under this system the convice has become a valuable asset of the State Treasury, a recent report to the Governor, made by one of the State Examiners, shows that the net earning capacity of 2,282 convicts during the last fiscal year, ending August 31, 1910, was $189.79 per convict.

The Board of Inspectors and the State are to be congratulated upon the excellent management which has produced such financial results. Under this system it does not seem probable that the convict will ever become a burden upon the tax payers of the State. This system also commends itself in providing the convict with knowledge and skill in an occupation by which, at the expiration of his term, he can make gobd wages and add to the industrial output of the State. It not only makes excellent provision for the physical needs of the convict, but it provides for his spiritual instruction by appointing a State Chaplain and preaching services at the local prisons.

Aside from these features and the punishment and discipline of prison life, there is nothing of a reformatory character in the law or the system. Penologists, who have given profound and scientific study to the problem of criminal life, declare that one of the first considerations in the treatment of the convict should be given to correct the criminal tendencies and restore the man to society as a useful member.

This should be done, not with any sentimental ideas or methods in dealing with this class, but because everyone recognizes that the same tendencies which led these men to a life of crime, exists in his own bosom and out for his environment, the restraints of the law and the Christian religion, he might be now in the convict's place.

Wards of the State.

By their crimes these men have become the wards of the State and it is obligated, by this relation, not only out of consideration for the convicts, but its duty to its own citizens and the community whence the convict came, to use all reasonable endeavors to win them back to a law-abiding life. In recognition of this obligation many States have adopted the indeterminate sentence and any convict who shall prove to the satisfaction of the authorities that he is worthy of his liberty and will use it to become a good and law-abiding citizen, may be discharged.

It is stated that this has worked well and has been an incentive to good conduct in the convict. No great reason can be shown why many reformatory features might not be incorporated in the present system without any great expense or radical changes.

The adoption of the indeterminate sentence could surely be made and its efficiency be greatly increased by allowing the Board of Inspectors to issue a parole to such men as shall become thus entitled to it, upon condition, however, that the convict make periodical reports to the board of such facts, supported by other testimony, that will enable the board to judge whether a right use is being made of the parole and with a power in the board, in case of violation of the conditions, to recall the convict to service.

A change, too, in the method of appointing the officials at the prisons, who have immediate charge of the convict, so that such appointments shall not be made as a reward for political activity in the interest of the "powers that be," should result in securing a class of men more in sympathy with plans for the reformation of the convict. Many of the officials, with whom the writer has come in contact, do not believe that there is any possibility of reforming such creatures.

Some years ago some parties, interested in the welfare of the convict, tried to get the prison officials to separate the convicts who desired to live decent lives and observe the rules of the prison, and place such in a cell to themselves, with the right to say who should be removed from the cell for disorderly conduct or other cause, and to select the substitute. After many months of delay the plan was finally put in operation at one prison and it has proved so effective that the officials of that prison have continued it to this day. Recently the warden and assistant warden, both spoke of it in the highest terms and stated that it was rare that the "good cell" men needed any discipline. The "good cell" plan could surely be carried out in all the prisons where the accommodations will admit of it. Its efficiency would be promoted by allowing the inmates some special privileges in food and dress to distinguish them from the other convicts, and this would require only a modest outlay.

Selecting Trusties.

The selection of the trusties of the prison might also become an ally in a reformative way, by giving such places to those who have shown faithfulness and trustworthiness of character. In the past such selections appear to have been made from those most subservient to the officials, who were willing to become spies and report their comrades.

This position is eagerly sought, as it affords relief from the heavy strain of hard work and the monotony of prison life. Surely in this day of education, no one will question the duty of the State to teach the ignorant and illiterate convict the simplest elements of education, reading, writing and arithmetic.

Some years ago, under the inspiration of that gifted Christian woman and noted educator, Miss Julia Tutwiler, teachers were appointed at some of the prisons to instruct those who desired it. These teachers were chosen because of their Christian character, as well as their capacity to teach. They were at the prison all their time to advise and counsel the convict, to minister to those in the hospitals, and they could take charge of the religious services in the absence of the chaplain. It would also be a wise move and one in the interest of economy to provide that one member of the Board of Inspectors should be a minister of the Gospel and to him might be committed the spiritual oversight of the convicts. As a member of the board he would have power in promoting the uplift of the convict. There are level headed preachers of the Gospel, who would make as efficient inspectors in any department of the work as any who have been selected in the past and it would be a recognition of faith in the power of the Gospel to save even convicts.

No doubt failure to institute any additional methods looking to the reformation of the convict, was because the great mass of the convicts come from the lowest strata of the colored element in our midst and there is a prevalent belief tha no power in earth or Heaven can reach those degraded and degenerate creatures. Those who have given time and labor to this class have found a responsiveness to Christian influences that speedily removed all this prejudice and satisfied them that there were none beyond the reach of the power of God through the Gospel.

In view of the fact that our prison matters will shortly be considered by the General Assembly of the State, it is hoped that such measures as shall be found practicable and of value in the reformation of the convict may be abreast with other States in the administration of its convict system.

Alabamian.

Editor Advertiser.

Knowing the wide influence weilded over the State by your paper and your universal interest in everything pertaining to the advancement and civilization of this great State, I am takng the liberty of sending you an article which should be of interest to every reader of your paper.

For years the questions of caring for the unfortunates convicted of crime has held the attention of liberal minded and merciful men in all countries. Especially is this true, or should be ture, of the jail systems of the countries where the citizens of a community are incarcerated, mostly awaiting trial for trivial offences and often viciously incarcerated and never convicted before a jury.

Any unfortunate, poor and unable to make bond, may be committed to jail on the oath of any enemy or man viciously inclined. As a matter of fact probably not over 75 per cent. of those incarcerated are ever convicted.

It therefore behooves the citizens of every community who are inclined toward justice and mercy to see that these unfortunates are as comfortably housed and cared for as is possible.

The Board of Convict Inspectors has been able and the good resulting from their inspections and rulings have been good and far reaching. They have condemned many of the county structures which were absolutely unfit for human habitation; filthy, badly ventilated, vermin infected, torture chambers. Some of these condemned structures have been removed and new jails constructed, others have not. The fault in these cases is in the law, not in the board of inspectors.

It has recently come to my notice that one or two new jails under construction and one or two plans under adoption have features which are made through ignorance or self interest totally without proper attention to light, heat, ventilation and approved methods for the proper physical exercise and welfare of the unfortunates who must inhabit them often for terms of from three to six months; of the men absolutely innocent of the charges preferred against them.

Seven Foot Ceilings.

In two cases at least plans have been adopted, and I am sorry to state passed by the jail inspectors, having a ceiling height of but seven feet for the entire cell room. These plans also contemplate the use of flat instead of round bar window guards admitting not more than 30 per cent. of light and air, absolute relics of barbarism.

Imagine if you please being shut out from God's sunlight and exercise for periods of six months compelled to eat, sleep, exercise and perform all of nature's functions in a room seven feet high. Imagine, if you can, having sixteen men stay night and day in a room twenty-six feet by twenty-two feet, with 70 per cent of light and air shut out from already insufficient window space, and only seven feet high. In these black holes of Calcutta there is no mechanical ventilations provided. What happens. Air expelled from the lungs of the unfortunates, who must breathe, rises seven feet and hangs there until partially cooled. Then the noxious carbonic acid gases from the lungs falls, being heavier than air. This gradually piles up a dead, undisturbed mass, until it reaches above the heads of the men and they breathe it over again.

There is no guess work about this. No doubt whatever that such plans are being used, no question but that an outrage in some way is being perpetrated against the citizens of this State and for purely commercial and selfish motives. The blame lies elsewhere, the results are vicious. Either ignorance or worse is putting the people's money into unsanitary, death-dealing, torture chambers. Often the results are worse than in the structures condemned.

False Economy.

The trouble lies primarily in the fact of the old theory of getting something for nothing. A lot of so-called jail experts, really agents for jail structural steel, the cell part, a minor consideration in this day of modern methods, are catching the commissioners by giving plans for nothing. The profit beng in the structural steel, the more and cheaper the construction the more the profit.

In the interest of humanity these things should be stopped. The Commissioners' Courts are honest and want the best, but do not know.

Light, heat and ventilation, mechanical ventilation, has been reduced to a science.

Laws should be enacted requiring a certain number of cubic feet air space for each man incarcerated. A certain number of square feet of light and air from window openings. A mechanical system of ventilation and its enforced use. Story heights in all jails of not less than eleven feet. Ample exercise corridors with direct access to windows protected by extended round window bars. Compulsory bathing, clean clothes for the newly incarcerated. Adequate penalties for neglect of the State laws by State and county officials. Not more than two men to each six foot six-inch by eight-foot cell.

The consequent lessening of the white plague; continued health for the unfortunates incarcerated; a merciful system which will redound to the credit of this great State; lessening of crime; the greater the people the more merciful they become; the more mercy shown the greater the number reclaimed from crime.

Let the fault lie where it will, certainly, beyond question, there are jails being constructed at large cost to the people which are nothing more or less than relics of barbarism, thrust upon the people by men ignorant of the first principles of hygiene.

Benj. Bosworth Smith.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 1

MORE TROUBLE IN ATLANTA.

The people in the city of Atlanta are fast waking up to the fact that putting men and women in prison does not bring about a higher civilization. For years Atlanta has pursued the policy of putting more individuals in prison in proportion to the size of the city than any other city perhaps in the United States or in the world.

The people themselves in Atlanta, we are glad to say, are waking up to the fact that Atlanta is being put in an awkward position before the civilized world. We quote the following from the Atlanta *Constitution*:

> Fewer arrests and fewer arraignments in the Recorder's Court—to this end a committee from the Chamber of Commerce and the Police Board are now working, and the City Council is soon to be called upon to lend a hand.
>
> Newark, N. J., with 348,000 people, had only 9,200 arrests in 1910; Jersey City, with her 267,000 people, had 9,347, and Cleveland, with her 561,000 population, had 7,1885 arrests. Atlanta, during the same year, with her 154,000, had 18,166 arrests, or twice as many arrests as did Cleveland, with 3,796 left over for good measure.
>
> The Chamber of Commerce wishes to look into the matter of why these rather startling conditions exist, and at the same time to fix upon some plan by which these conditions may be remedied.

We have one suggestion to make, that is instead of imprisoning people, Atlanta try education, civilized enlightenment. A very large proportion of the colored children cannot get into the public schools for lack of room and money, and those who do attend are poorly taught because of inadequate facilities.

Atlanta will continue to be disgraced in the eyes of the civilized world until it gives Negro children something like the same facilities for public school education that it gives to the white children. How can Atlanta expect colored boys and girls to be as law-abiding and as intelligent and conscientious as the white children when she shuts the Carnegie Library in the face of the Negro child and invites the white child in? The next day the Negro child is arrested for vagrancy or for crime, whereas if the child had been permitted to go into the same library it might have kept out of trouble.

We hope that the people of Atlanta will soon begin to use their consciences as well as their minds.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Crime—1911

Career of "Black Prince," World's Greatest Crook, Remarkable

New York Telegraph.

By wearing the navy blue uniform of a hotel porter the Black Prince Alfred has been enabled to preserve his incognito in New York ever since his return from the coronation at London, until a few nights ago his fondness for showier attire brought him to the atention of three Central Office detectives.

They picked him up at Eighth avenue and Forty-first street as he was swinging along with the air of a cosmopolite, wearing a natty summer suit and carrying a slender rod cane which was really too slight for one of his international reputation to lean upon.

"As I live it is the 'Black Royalty,'" said one of the detectives. All three of them shook hands with the much-traveled African mogul whose origin was on Tenth avenue in New York City and whose ability as a lone-hand "gun," or pickpocket, has made him the subject of gossip in police circles all over the world.

They told him that it was socially incumbent upon him to come down to police headquarters and make the acquaintance of the younger detectives, and they lugged him along somewhat facetiously while the greatest continental crook of the darky race grinned affably and offered mild protestations that his presence in New York at this time has no "dip"-lomatic interest.

It has been about five years since this shiny-faced piece of human charcoal did his "bit" of one year on Blackwell's Island. His picture is in the rogues' gallery at police headquarters in New York and his cynical smile adorns the large album of malefactors cherished by the authorities of many other cities for purposes of identification.

Although it has been said that the Black Prince was always on his good behavior when in New York, the records of the Police Department and the recollection of senior detectives prove that the ability of his mental forces is by no means commensurate with the dexterity of his long, tapering hands in the art of picking pockets. He has been in trouble with the police many times. He is so fond of bragging about his greatness as a crook and telling of his experiences abroad that careful detectives would not think of putting him under the third degree for the reason that he would talk himself into an early decline and pass away with tuberculosis of the vocal cords before his trial could be reached.

It is related of Black Prince Alfred that he once went into an all-night quick-lunch emporium and while waiting to be served he discovered a "card of dope"—where some woman of the underworld had left it beside her plate.

The Black Prince thought th's lucky find was molasses and he devoured it with the gusto of his race. In about five minutes he was talking to himself volubly about his determination of going out and breaking all the crap-shooting joints in Hell's Kitchen.

He was a votary of the feeble-lamp-o'dreams.

The Black Prince was called the African Prince by admirers of his own race, when he first began a career of crime in New York, and he essayed to be the best dressed "coon" in Hell's Kitchen. His right name is Alfred Woods, his favorite alias James Ragsdale, alias also Alfred Lexdalem, alias Alfred Laxdale.

He would permit his own kind to call him a "coon," or a negro and take it all in good part. But when arrested by Central Office men, it was his habit to inform them that he was a "colored gentleman." The Black Prince has always boasted of his acquaintances among the "white folks." And it is a fact that he was so well received among the thieves of the Caucasian race and a certain dissolute class of white women here and abroad, that he actually came to believe he had a social status far and above that of the ordinary negro that robs a chicken roost and goes regularly to prayer meeting.

Although he generally worked alone, the Black Prince was always fond of the companionship of white "guns," or pickpockets. He hung out with them at Fox's a saloon at Thirty-fifth street and Seventh avenue, New York, which was torn down about five years ago. He was a good story teller when it came to relating incidents of travel and his experiences with the police in foreign cities. Central office men would drop into Fox's place just to see if the Black Prince would uncork something that would give them a clew to some other international crook.

His Ebony Highness was regarded as a great wit, adventurer, gambler, high roller, pal and "gun" without assistance.

It is said that the eminent nabob of his thievish crew is now about 18 years old. But he did not look to be nearly so old when picked up and turned out the other day. His term on Blackwell's Island was for an attempted larceny in the vicinity of Thirty-fourth street and Eight avenue. Immediately on being releasted he went to Boston where he fell again for an attempted pocketpicking. He served another sentence of about a year and then went abroad.

The Black Prince has been known in New York altogether for a period of about fifteen years, but he is equally abhorred in most American cities. His most cautious and successful work has been to hustle around in a hotel porter's suit, frequenting railroad stations and steamship landings, riding in street cars early in the morning and late in the afternoon, when persons are going to their work or going home.

The costume was for a long time his best disguise against police suspicion. The pickpockets of the white race invariably try to assume a neat and business-like address. Who would imagine that a good-natured negro in a porter's jumper could alone turn a trick that generally requires at least three expert professional crooks.

But the Black Prince needed no "stall," or pusher. He was and still is an adept. A "stall" is useful for his nerve and ability as a scrapper. When the "gun," or principal in the pocket-picking job makes a mistake through nervousness or anxiety and is discovered almost in the act, it is the duty of the "stall" to interfere until the "gun," or "wire," as he is also called, can make good his escape.

The "stall" begins to cover the retreat by blocking the pursuit of the passenger who has set up a howl.

"Here, look where you're going!" roars the "stall." "Whose foot do you think you're stepping on?"

By the time the reason for the commotion is explained the principal has dropped off the car. Then the "stall" or "stalls" apologize to the passenger and one by one they ring the bell and alight in good order.

But the Black Prince never cared to employ "assistance." In the first place his long, tapering fingers and deftness of touch have enabled him to get away with many a "poke" (pocketpicking) or "rock" (diamond used as a shirt stud) with the greatest ease and unconcern. And then, of course he has found it more profitable to work alone, for in that case he does not have to cut up the proceeds among other thieves.

The Black Prince has been regarded by police authorities all over the United States as the ablest single-handed "gun" this country has ever produced.

On rare occasions the sociability of the Black Prince led him to "fill in," hustle, with one or several of his white comrades in crime. To "fill in" means, in the parlance of thieves, to help constitute a "mob," or gang engaged on a business errand. Some of his white friends in this rascally element in New York have been: Paddy Rags, Eddie Maloney, Lester, Johnnie Roche, Jack Regan, Sheldon, Al Blair, Tom Malone, Al Anderson, alias Little Al; Kid Duffy and a few others with whom he exchanged experiences and compared notes, or lent a hand at odd times when they appealed to his professional pride.

The Black Prince has enjoyed the reputation of never deserting a member of his "mob" when such member would fall into the grip of the police. He has always sent for a lawyer to look after the defense, and has supplied his unfortunate associates with every possible help in an endeavor to beat the "rap," which is a crook's term for an official complaint, in case of conviction and sentence he has always remitted "necessity money" at regular periods during the term of imprisonment.

At one time the Black Prince Alfred was reputed to be worth $50,000, and he was regarded as such an animated "sport" that the proprietors of rival gambling houses in the Tenderloin sent carriages for him in order to obtain his play. This always arouses him to the keenest pitch of vanity, and he would cheerfully lose as much as $1,000 in a night.

The Detectives Bureau here did not pretend to have any case against the prince of darkness dude but took him downstairs as a sort of habitual formality. He went along without a murmur. The same thing has happened to him twenty nights in a single month. Before the passage of the vagrancy law it was the custom of the Central Office to order crooks to headquarters on the slightest pretext, whenever found in a crowd. As a rule the defendants were discharged next morning for lack of sufficient evidence to hold them. In times past this was brought about by what was known as the three-link system, the thief, the politician and the copper.

But in recent years the vagrancy act provides for a maximum sentence of 100 days in the workhouse in such cases. Section 898-A of the Penal Code of New York State provides a maximum penalty of one year in prison and $500 fine upon the conviction of any pickpocket or other criminal found loitering in railroad stations, ferry terminals, on steamboat landings, in street cars, on omnibuses, etc., and acting in a disorderly manner," which means pushing or jostling.

The Black Prince talked unreservedly to newspaper men on the occasion he was last "stood up" at police headquarters.

"The first trick I ever turned," he said, "was in Australia in 1883. On a race track I touched a bookmaker for £35,000 the day he landed the Melbourne cup. Then I went into the business, and my money went that way. Two years later I told the bookmaker about it, but he was a good sport, and he wouldn't 'squeal.' So you see I never done any time for that big trick. I have been all over the world since then."

Prince" Alfred wears a frock coat, a silk hat and a red necktie when the season is right and also carries a varied assortment of sticks with gold and silver handles.

His first arrest was in Melbourne in 1888, when he was sentenced to three years' hard labor and ten lashes. He is not so proud of the lashes. In 1891 he was sentenced at Sydney to six months, the following year to a like term and the year after that to seven days.

In San Francisco in 1896 he got six months, and the next year in Sacramento seven months. After serving another year in San Francisco he was sentenced in Cincinnati to six months, and in 1901 in St. Louis he got two years. Then in Hoboken in 1905 he drew another six months. Two terms one of six months and another of one year, were meted out to him in this city, and finally, in 1907, he was sent from here to Boston for a term of three years in the Charlestown State Prison.

Through his experience as a tourist he is esteemed by fellow "guns" as an excellent "roadster" or guide, and can tell them the dates of county fairs all over the United States without consulting his diary.

Colored Detectives; shrewd men in every city and town. Send twelve two-cent stamps for particulars. Byrd's Secret Service, 2458 Ethel avenue, Indianapolis, Ind.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Journal, 5-20-11

PRISON IN LAWRENCE COUNTY "NEAR JAIL"

Marion County Has Nearly No Jail at all.

OATES RENDERS REPORT

Mont Adv. 6-11-11

State Prison Inspector Commends the Tuscaloosa County Bastile as One of the Most Modern and Model Jails in Alabama.

Prison Inspector W. H. Oates, in a report to Governor O'Neal made public Saturday morning, condemns the Marion County jail as "nearly no jail at all," and the Lawrence County prison a "near jail," and orders those two counties to proceed at once to the erection of modern structures which will afford heat, light, ventilation and sanitation.

These two counties are said by Dr. Oates to have the poorest jails in the State. The Lawrence County jail consists of two rooms with two cells. A description of the Marion County jail further than that it is "nearly no jail at all," is not entered upon. The condemnation papers have been forwarded to the Boards of Revenue of the two counties.

Marion Almshouse Homelike.

The Marion County almshouse, also visited by the Inspector, is heartily approved as being quite "homelike."

Dr. Oates inspected the Morgan County jail and found that there were certain needed improvements, but on account of the more urgent cases at hand he reserved his specific criticism for a later report.

The jail at Tuscaloosa, says Dr. Oates, is one of the most modern and model of the jails of the State. It has twenty-two cells, including a padded cell for insane prisoners. At present, it contains nineteen prisoners, four white males and thirteen negro females.

Sewerage connections at this jail are good.

Improvements Needed.

Dr. Oates suggests the following needed improvements: A thorough cleaning up; chairs, stools or benches in the rooms and in the halls; garbage cans in the rooms and in the kitchen; the removal of the slop barrel from the kitchen door.

An iron fence, in case the jail is enclosed, rather than a wall, is suggested.

18TH MURDER IN YEAR

Mont Adv. 11-13-11

Lewisburg, Birmingham Suburb, Adds Another Name to List.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 12.—The eighteenth murder within a little more than eighteen months was committed at Lewisburg tonight when Constable W. W. Ellard was killed at Hogan's drug store and his 8-year-old son, Ralph, was shot in the thigh. Ellard

was shot three times, dying at once, and his son said the shooting was done by Tom Hagan and Bob Payne. Hagan later appeared at the county jail and gave himself up. Those four men appear to have been the only ones in the drug store at the time and just after the shooting Hagan and Payne were seen running down the road and the cause of the trouble is not known.

CONVICTS WANT TO WORK IN MINES

"It is a peculiar thing," said Mr. Theo Lacy, chief clerk of the convict Bureau, "that the convicts of the State all seem to prefer to work in the coal mines. We have no less than twenty letters a week from convicts at the various state farms, turpentine camps and lumber camps, appealing to the board to transfer them to the coal mines. These cases are usually submitted to the Inspectors.

"There is a cause for this of course. In the first place the mines are cooler, well ventilated with a uniform temperature the year round. The mines are sanitary, and the convicts are required to take daily shower baths. This of course affords them good health. The convicts of the coal mines are in spendid condition, physically and otherwise. Then another thing, in some cases the convicts are enabled to earn money for themselves by workig overtime in the mines. All of this appeals to them."

Gov. Hoke Smith of Georgia says, on the eve of retiring from the Governorship to become United States Senator, that fully 500 of the 5,000 convicts in the Georgia penitentiary ought to be released, among them "many Negro convicts," and he "is using the pardoning power freely." It is said that way down at the bottom of him the meanest man has a grain of good. Perhaps it may be so with Gov. Smith. As Secretary of the Interior in President Cleveland's Cabinet, we remember, he was said by Georgia Negroes in Washington be "one of the best friends of the Negro in the Cabinet." But, long after, when he wanted to dominate Georgia politics, he used the helpless Negro as a chopping block to rise upon, making a firebrand of his newspaper, the Atlanta *Evening Journal*. Now, having served as Governor, and having a long term in the Federal Senate on his hands, if he should have a change of heart and either become the Negro's friend, or let him alone, his appetite would improve in the daytime and he would sleep better in the night time. We do not advise the wise man; we simply make the suggestion.

USE OF CONVICTS IN MINES TO BE ENDED

Important Announcement by Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 1.—Announcement is made that the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company will abandon the use of convicts in the coal mines at Pratt City, surrendering first the State convicts about January 1, and then the county convicts as the contracts with the various counties terminate. This information is from an authoritative source and causes considerable surprise in the face of big expenditures for a prison at Pratt Mines No. 12, $50,000 and more being spent for a prison, and other improvements. The State convicts worked by the Tennessee Company will be sent to Banner mines, where the State will operate with convicts, turning the coal mined over to the Pratt Consolidated Coal and Coke Company. Some of the convicts from the Tennessee Company will go to Wetumpka or to Speigner. Why the Tennessee Company abandons the use of convict labor cannot be stated, none of the officials doing any talking. Free labor entirely will be used in the operations of coal mines and other operations of the company.

As has been stated, the state will make an effort to work all of its convicts, Banner mines being taken over. There was some discussion when the announcement was first made to the effect that it would not be a wise move for the state to engage in the coal business, but it is announced that the State will not place the coal mined at Banner on the open market, but instead will turn every ton of it over to the Pratt Consolidated Company.

The Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company is working more than a thousand convicts, State and county men, at Pratt Mines.

At the general offices of the company the only statement that was made today was that there was truth in the report that the use of convict labor would be abandoned.

ULRICH TO THE PENITENTIARY

Cowardly Assailant of Dr. Washington Sentenced for Wife Desertion—Unable to Secure a Bondsman.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 19.—On complaint of the Children's Aid and Protective Society of the Oranges, Henry A. Ulrich, Dr. Washington's assailant, pleaded guilty on December 6th of wilful neglect and desertion of his wife and two minor children. Ulrich was arraigned before County Court Judge Davis, in Newark.

The following sentence was imposed upon Ulrich: "That he placed on probation in the custody of the Chief Probation Officer of Essex County, John I. Gascoyne, for a term of three years and to furnish a bona fide bond of $1,000, to pay $10 a week to the Probation Officer of Essex County during that term for the support of his wife and children."

In default of furnishing the bond, Ulrich is to stand committed to the Essex County Penitentiary at Caldwell, New Jersey, for one year or until such time as he can furnish the bond within that time. It is said that Ulrich has thus far been unable to secure a proper bondsman in Essex County and that he will stand committed to the penitentiary to serve out his sentence.

NEGRO MASONS TAKE STAND AGAINST CRIME

GRAND MASTER MORGAN CALLS RACE TO TAKE ACTION.

"We Stand for Law and Order, and True Manhood," He Declared in Opening Address—Second Day Session Busiest Ever Held in State.

Yazoo City, Miss., Dec. 6.—"We have no time to lose as a race, but we must keep busy all the time and make every day count for something," was the declaration made by Grand Master W. A. J. Morgan, in calling to order the second day's session of the Stringer Grand Lodge of negro Masons which is perhaps the busiest session ever held in the history of the order.

"I want it understood by the world that the negro Masons of Mississippi stand against crime and criminals. We condemn and do not condone crime. I have heard it said that if a man joins the Masons and commits a crime he will not be punished: a bigger mistake was never made. We stand for law and order, and true manhood."

Rev. J. M. Shumpert made the opening prayer at the second day's session, and Grand Secretary G. S. Goodman read the journal, which was approved. He was commended for his faithful service.

Before taking up the business of the grand lodge, Thomas M. Campbell, of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, district agent for the United States Department of Agriculture, who is the farmers' cooperative demonstration work, was introduced and made a short address. He had on exhibition 365 select ears of corn grown in Mississippi. He told the negroes how God had placed in the earth wealth for every man who would take the time to work it out. He knew of no better place to reach the members of his race than through the meetings of this kind, where were represented doctors, lawyers, merchants, bankers, and farmers, the latter being in the majority, yet in many instances did not know the value of their own work.

It was the aim of the government to help men see the farm and its value, to bring about better results, hence men were sent out to demonstrate the work—not to any particular race or people, but to all Americans. He showed the negro Masons how they could use the 1,000 acres of delta land they owned, to advantage.

The report of Prof. G. S. Goodman, the grand secretary, was the first thing to claim attention in the way of reports. Prof. Goodman has held the position for some time, and is one of the best posted men in the state. He has made a reputation as a teacher of the youth of his race, being connected with the Mississippi Industrial College, Holly Springs, Miss. He is interested in his people. His report showed that he had exercised some care in studying the condition of the fraternity, and was well posted in every item of business. The collections for his office had greatly fallen off during the past twelve months, but he felt that it would pick up again. He could not account for it. There were many who commended the good work of the secretary.

"The age in which we live is calling for efficiency," said C. S. Collard, of Moss Point, "and I am glad that we have such a well-trained man as our secretary."

The report which attracted more attention than all the others was that of Charles Banks, of Mound Bayou, secretary of the Masonic Benefit Association, which is the most important department in the grand lodge. It looks after the widows and orphans by paying a stipulated amount at the death of each Mason in good standing.

At the death of E. E. Perkins, little more than a year ago, Charles Banks was appointed to the position, and was elected at the last session over Diamond Cox, of Jackson. His administration has been watched closely, and every man was in the grand lodge when he reported. Banks is one of the most aggressive negroes in the country, and has made a mark. He was a business man in Clarksdale, where he made many friends among both races, and closed out his business to establish the Bank of Mound Bayou, of which he is cashier. His success in his own business, and in launching a negro oil mill in Mound Bayou, won for him many friends and admirers, and the entire Masonic body felt that their money would be safe in the hands of a man who could handle and use to advantage his own money.

"No time in the history of our grand lodge," said Secretary Banks, "have we had as many deaths as we have had during the past year. We have collected more money than any time in our history and paid out more, and we have some claims yet unpaid, but we are paying them off fast. It is to be regretted that we found it necessary to issue a special assessment, and while it had to be done, I desire to thank you for the prompt manner in which you responded."

Reference was made to several lawsuits which had been instituted against the grand lodge by men who were displeased about something, who would destroy if they could. The report showed that the receipts for the department during the past twelve months had been $230,158.63, and the expenditures had been $211,083.16. It took two hours to read the report, every cent collected and paid out was itemized, from the purchase of a box of matches to the payment of heavy death claims. The Masonic Benefit Association, since its organization in Mississippi in 1880, had paid to widows and orphans little over two million dollars, which was considered a good showing for such a short time. This report placed Banks in the hearts of the men, and he will be re-elected.

D. W. Gary, grand treasurer, made his report, and the grand lodge called off for dinner.

The session this afternoon was spent in routine business.

The report of the grand lecturers claimed the attention of the grand lodge. Jerre M. Blowe reported that in the part of the state where he had visited he found peace and harmony and friendly relations existing between the races. "The negroes are purchasing property and striving to educate their children," he said, "which I consider a good sign."

Then followed the report of Grand Lecturer Benson, who spoke of the good work of the colored people throughout the state, and said that the widows were investing their money in homes, and for the benefit of their orphan children.

Last night there was a grand lodge of sorrow. Three hundred and four were reported having died during the past twelve months. Prof. H. D. Ford, of Fayette, delivered the eulogy. He is the grand orator. The grand lodge held its session today in the Methodist Episcopal church, the hall being too small to accommodate the large crowd.

CHESS WIZARD RETURNS.

New York, Dec. 6.—Joseph Capablanca, the Cuban chess player, who won the international tournament at San Sebastian, is back in New York today. He has met and played more than 2,000 players in Europe since he left here last February. He will remain here for about 10 days, and then return to his home in Havana to study the conditions imposed in Dr. Lasker's reply to his challenge for a world's championship match.

The State of Georgia has made some advancement in dealing with criminal Negro boys. Any well-recommended Negro farmer may take a number of these boys on trial, work them and teach them at his own expense, with a view to reforming them, and report regularly on their progress. Rev. Jas. Griswold, a minister of Cornetta, Ga., who with Mrs. Alice Dugged Cary, of Morris Brown College, is making a very great effort for the establishment of the reformatories for Negro boys in Georgia, was the first to try a number of boys.